IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re patent application of: |) | Before the Examiner |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Ricardo Sasso |) | (unknown) |
| |) | |
| Serial No. New |) | Group Art Unit (unknown) |
| |) | |
| Filed July 8, 2003 |) | July 8, 2003 |
| |) | |
| INSTRUMENTATION AND METHOD |) | Ref. No. 3076-4 |
| FOR PERFORMING IMAGE-GUIDED |) | |
| SPINAL SURGERY USING AN |) | |
| ANTERIOR SURGICAL APPROACH |) | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure embodied in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants wish to bring to the attention of the Examiner the patents and publications listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement. This information has not been previously submitted in this application, and has not been heretofore cited by the Examiner. Copies of cited items are enclosed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

Express Mail Label No. EV332723697US Date of Deposit: July 8, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service
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Information Disclosure Statement
INSTRUMENTATION AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING
IMAGE-GUIDED SPINAL SURGERY USING AN ANTERIOR
SURGICAL APPROACH
Filed July 8, 2003
Inventor: Ricardo Sasso
Page 1 of 2

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as an

admission that the information cited is or is considered to be prior art or material to patentability as

defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

This Statement is being submitted under 37 CFR 1.97(b) before the occurrence of one or

more of the following: (a) receipt of a First Office Action on the merits, (b) passage of three (3)

months from the application filing date, or passage of three (3) months from the date entry of the

national stage. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee is due. However, should any fee be

required, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any

payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad A. Schepers Reg. No. 45,431

Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty

McNett & Henry LLP

Bank one Center/Tower

111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700

Indianapolis, IN 46204-5137

(317) 634-3456

Information Disclosure Statement

INSTRUMENTATION AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING

IMAGE-GUIDED SPINAL SURGERY USING AN ANTERIOR

SURGICAL APPROACH

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449A/PTO **Application Number** New INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date July 8, 2003 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor Ricardo Sasso

Group Art Unit Unknown (use as many sheets as necessary) **Examiner Name** Unknown Sheet Attorney Docket Number 3076-4

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (If known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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